

The
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EMA Report



NEWSLETTER FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

VOLUME I, NUMBER 11



Henry Guzmán, Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety addresses guests and media at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium recently as part of National Preparedness Month Statewide campaign.

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, County Commissioner President Mary Jo Kilroy, Henry Guzmán and FCEM&HS Director Gary L. Holland will take to the podium in observance of Patriot's Day and the County National Preparedness Month celebration kickoff.

This public event will be held **September 11, 11AM—2PM** at the Statehouse West Plaza.

To raise public awareness, more than 40 exhibits; 2,999 small flags honoring those Americans lost in the Twin Towers, The Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania; police and fire color guard and emergency response vehicles will be on display.

Full-Scale Improvised Explosive Device Exercise Scheduled

Tests coordination among response organizations, elected officials, community support groups

On September 6, 2007 area first responders, hospitals, along with other response partner agencies (such as the **Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency**, Red Cross and the local health departments) will participate in the Franklin County Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Exercise.

This is the largest full-scale exercise ever conducted in Franklin County.

A full-scale exercise means that there will be volunteers and actors playing out parts of the exercise while actual police, fire and specialty response teams, e.g. the bomb squad and tactical units, respond as if it were an actual incident. The "injured" volunteers will then be transported to area hospitals for treatment which will allow the hospitals to test their response plans as well.

The exercise will be held between 6AM and 10PM. Activity and/or incidents will occur in the following areas: **Upper Arlington; Franklin Township; N. 17th Street area, Columbus; Kilbourne Middle School, Worthington; Westerville, Hoff Woods Park; Whittier Peninsula area, Columbus; South Western Career Academy, Grove City; Gahanna Lincoln High School; Upper Arlington High School and St. Ann's Hospital, Westerville.**

Area residents are asked to stay clear of the exercise areas that day. All areas will be clearly marked with signage that says "This is an Exercise" or "Training in Progress" to help alleviate any unnecessary panic in area residents.

This exercise is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the State of Ohio Homeland Security Grant Exercise Program. It will give participants the opportunity to evaluate the county's current response plans and capabilities for terrorist incidents in the Franklin County area.

The exercise will focus on key local and county emergency responder coordination, critical decisions, and the integration of State and Federal assets necessary to save lives and protect the public following a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosives (CBRNE) incident.

This training event is evidence of the growing public safety partnership between local, State, and Federal jurisdictions in response to the constant threat of CBRNE weapons of mass destruction terrorism that our Nation and communities face.

Courtesy Mitzi Kline, Director of Communication, Franklin County Board of Health

Virginia "Ginny" Barney has been the City Manager at the City of Upper Arlington since October 2000. She has brought with her many years experience as a businesswoman and community leader.

Prior to joining Upper Arlington as City Manager, Ginny served as Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas from May 1998 until she accepted her current position with the City. She has served as Mayor and City Council member of Upper Arlington, Chair Person for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, Director of Greater Columbus Promise for Youth and Chair for the board of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.



Virginia Barney

"Multiple jurisdictions working together can serve the people of Franklin County well," she said, "while assuring greater efficiencies of all of our limited resources. Training, preparedness and cooperation keep all of us safer. I look forward to contributing to the process."

Previously, Ginny was the owner/operator of the Barney Corporation, an industrial distribution company, for more than 20 years.

Currently, her community involvement includes: serving as officer of the Central Ohio Municipal Alliance; Upper Arlington Rotary Club; Upper Arlington Community Improvement Corporation and Ohio City/County Management Association.

Editor's Note: Each edition we feature an Executive Committee member and profile their duties and vision for FCEM&HS. Fire Chief Mitch Ross serves as alternate.

Ongoing CERT Class

A twenty-hour Community Emergency Response Team class began September 5 — October 6. Class is held at the Jackson Township Fire Department, 3650 Hoover Road, Grove City, OH 43123. For further information call 614-571-5038 or log on to www.fccert.org.

Upcoming Meetings

September 11	9AM	Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 12	10AM	Homeland Security Advisory Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 12	2-3PM	Central Ohio Public Information Network	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 14	10-Noon	Special Needs Population (Disabled)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 14	1PM	Executive Committee Orientation	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 19	9AM	Executive Committee Meeting	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 24	10AM	Animal Care Planning Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 26	9AM	9-1-1 Managers	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Upcoming Exercise/Training

September 6 — IED Exercise, 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd. — 6AM-10PM
 September 25 — Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council Training — 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd. — 2PM

Upcoming Events

September 11 — National Preparedness Month Franklin County Kickoff, Statehouse West Plaza — 11AM
 September 27 — 30, Mustangs & Legends Air Show, Rickenbacker International Airport



Gary L. Holland, Director

Jan Bartel, Finance
 Jamie Stout, Planning

Susan Johnson, Administrative Assistant
 Robert Crockett, Public Information/Community Education/Outreach
www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs

Jim Leonard, Deputy Director

Art Baker, Manager, Warning/EOC
 Pam Tickle, Grants/Training



Susan Johnson joins the FCEM&HS staff as the new Administrative Assistant. The former Pentagon office manager and contractor supervisor has worked in the Washington, DC area for five years.

As an administrative assistant to the Director of Management Support Division she reviewed reports, travel forms, time sheets, budget documents and maintained files to military specifications.

As a Pentagon site security and office manager, Susan conceived and implemented a database to

streamline and secure temporary visitor access. She followed protocols for high level military and government officials, political appointees and diplomats. She also conducted an extensive transfer of printed materials into electronic form.

While working with the US Army Community & Family Support Center, Susan conducted a review of personnel files to meet Army record retention regulations.



Susan Johnson

Hot Weather Tips

- ◆ Drink more fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar. These actually cause you to lose more body fluid.
- ◆ Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to the shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat.
- ◆ Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- ◆ Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- ◆ NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.
- ◆ Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on:

- *Infants and young children
- *People aged 65 or older
- *People who have a mental illness
- *Physically ill

- ◆ Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course, need much more frequent watching.

If you must be out in the heat:

- ◆ Limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.
- ◆ Cut down on exercise. If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, nonalcoholic fluids each hour. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- ◆ Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat (also keeps you cooler) and sunglasses and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher (the most effective products say "broad spectrum" or "UVA/UVB protection" on their labels).

Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Preparing for a Flood

- Contact the local county geologist or county planning department to find out if your home is located in a flash-flood-prone area or landslide-prone area.
- Learn about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes, and locations of emergency shelters.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be the "family contact" in case your family is separated during a flood.
- Post emergency phone numbers at every phone.
- Inform local authorities about any special needs, i.e., elderly or bedridden people, or anyone with a disability.
- Identify potential home hazards and know how to secure or protect them before the flood strikes. Be prepared to turn off electrical power when there is standing water, fallen power lines, or before you evacuate. Turn off gas and water supplies before you evacuate. Secure structurally unstable building materials.
- Buy a fire extinguisher and make sure your family knows where it is and how to use it.
- Buy and install sump pumps with back-up power.
- Have a licensed electrician raise electric components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring) at least 12" above your home's projected flood elevation.
- For drains, toilets, and other sewer connections, install backflow valves or plugs to prevent floodwaters from entering.
- Anchor fuel tanks which can contaminate your basement if torn free. An unanchored tank outside can be swept downstream and damage other houses.

If you are under a flood watch or warning:

- Gather the emergency supplies you previously stocked in your home and stay tuned to local radio or television station for updates.
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and plastic soda bottles with clean water. Sanitize the sinks and tubs first by using bleach. Rinse and fill with clean water.
- Bring outdoor possessions, such as lawn furniture, grills and trash cans inside or tie them down securely.

Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



ReadyOhio

Prepare...Plan...Stay Informed.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety and its National Preparedness Month planning committee recently launched their state-focused preparedness Web site, ReadyOhio. ReadyOhio is a one-stop Internet resource that contains information Ohioans need to prepare for all types of emergencies.

Go to www.ready.ohio.gov for links to Ready America for families, older individuals, people with special needs, and schools; Ready Business; and weather events (FloodSmart Web site). ReadyOhio was created in part to help promote National Preparedness Month, a nationwide coordinated effort observed during the month of September, that encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

During National Preparedness Month, the Ohio Department of Public Safety will join with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a diverse group of national, state and local partners in highlighting the importance of emergency preparedness and promoting community involvement through a wide variety of events and activities. **September 11** marks the County Kickoff ceremony at the Statehouse West Plaza sponsored in part by **Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security**.

The following lists Ohio's activities for National Preparedness Month:

Week One: Back to School and READY Kids - Kickoff events in Cuyahoga and Scioto counties

Week Two: Business Preparedness and READY Business - Kickoff event in Franklin County

Week Three: Multi-Cultural Awareness - Kickoff event in Lucas County

Week Four: Home and Family Preparedness and READY America - Kickoff event in Butler County

ReadyOhio encourages businesses, organizations, townships and schools to promote emergency preparedness during the month of September by organizing preparedness programs at libraries or other community facilities such as recreation centers; creating or revising schools'/offices' emergency manuals, or offering First Aid/CPR training to students or employees.

The goal of ReadyOhio is to have all Ohioans be prepared for any critical incident or natural disaster, have an emergency preparedness plan and kit, and stay informed.

Partners of ReadyOhio include: Ready.Gov; American Red Cross; Citizen Corps; and state agencies such as the Ohio Community Service Council/Ohio Citizen Corps; Ohio Department of Administrative Services; Ohio State Lottery and multiple divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

City and County agencies and businesses are strongly encouraged to register their National Preparedness Month activities on www.ready.ohio.gov.



September is...
National Preparedness Month